



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 and 4 without prejudice or disclaimer of their underlying subject matter.

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) ~~A tire/wheel assembly according to claim 1~~ A tire/wheel assembly comprising:

a wheel having a rim;

a pneumatic tire fitted to the rim of the wheel, the pneumatic tire having a tread surface and a hollow space, the tread surface having a circumferential groove extending in a circumferential direction of the tire; and

a run-flat support member disposed in the hollow space of the pneumatic tire, the run-flat support member having an annular shell and elastic rings,

the annular shell including a support surface formed on the radially outwardly facing surface and having a convexly curved surface portion with an annular apical line or face, and including two leg portions extending radially inwardly from the annular shell, the elastic rings supporting the two leg portions on the rim,

wherein the apical line or apical face of the convexly curved surface portion is offset in a direction of a center axis of rotation of the wheel so as not to be located in a position corresponding to the circumferential groove when viewed from a radial direction of the wheel, and

wherein the tread surface of the pneumatic tire has a plurality of circumferential grooves, the apical line or apical face of the convexly curved surface portion being located between one of the circumferential grooves and an adjacent one of the circumferential grooves so as to be spaced away one quarter or more of a wheel rotation axis direction length (L) between opening ends of the adjacent circumferential grooves from each circumferential groove opening end in the direction of the wheel rotation center axis.

3. (Previously presented) A tire/wheel assembly according to claim 2, wherein the apical line or apical face of the convexly curved surface portion is approximately centrally positioned between the adjacent circumferential grooves.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) ~~A tire/wheel assembly according to claim 4~~ A tire/wheel assembly comprising:

a wheel having a rim;

a pneumatic tire fitted to the rim of the wheel, the pneumatic tire having a tread surface and a hollow space, the tread surface having a circumferential groove extending in a circumferential direction of the tire; and

a run-flat insert member disposed in the hollow space of the pneumatic tire, the run-flat insert member having an annular support surface with two edges provided on the radially outwardly facing surface of the run-flat insert member for supporting an inner surface of the pneumatic tire during run-flat traveling.

wherein the two edges of the annular support surface are offset in a direction of a center axis of rotation of the wheel so as not to be located in a position corresponding to the circumferential groove when viewed from a radial direction of the wheel, and

wherein the tread surface of the pneumatic tire has a plurality of circumferential grooves, each of the two edges of the support surface being located between one of the circumferential grooves and an adjacent one of the circumferential grooves so as to be spaced away one quarter or more of a wheel rotation axis direction length (L) between opening ends of the adjacent circumferential grooves from each circumferential groove opening end in the direction of the wheel rotation center axis.

6. (Previously presented) A tire/wheel assembly according to claim 5, wherein each of the two edges of the support surface is approximately centrally positioned between the adjacent circumferential grooves.

7. (Previously presented) A tire/wheel assembly according to claim 2, wherein the support surface includes two convexly curved surface portions each having an annular apical line or face,

the apical line or face for each of the convexly curved surface portions being located between adjacent ones of the circumferential grooves so as to be spaced away one quarter or more of the wheel rotation axis direction length (L) from each circumferential groove opening end in the direction of the wheel rotation center axis.

8. (Previously presented) A tire/wheel assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of circumferential grooves comprise four circumferential grooves, the four circumferential grooves including two inner circumferential grooves and two outer circumferential grooves disposed outwardly from the two inner circumferential grooves,

the apical line or face for each of the convexly curved surface portions being located between an inner circumferential groove and an outer circumferential groove adjacent the inner circumferential groove so as to be spaced away one quarter or more of a wheel rotation axis direction length (L) between opening ends of the adjacent inner and outer circumferential grooves from each circumferential groove opening end in the direction of the wheel rotation center axis.

9. (Previously presented) A tire/wheel assembly according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of circumferential grooves comprise four circumferential grooves, the four circumferential grooves including two inner circumferential grooves and two outer circumferential grooves disposed outwardly from the two outer circumferential grooves,

each of the two edges of the support surface being located between an inner circumferential groove and an outer circumferential groove adjacent to the inner circumferential groove so as to be spaced away one quarter or more of a wheel rotation axis direction length (L) between opening ends of the adjacent inner and outer circumferential grooves from each circumferential groove opening end in the direction of the wheel rotation center axis.